contiguous to the States. Questions of the nature which have been addressed in this House ought naturally to be addressed in the Dominion Legislature and not here, because we are not aware of the circumstances which led to these mergers. You are dealing with a subject which is not really within the purview of the Provincial Government."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I do not want to question the policy of the States Ministry at all. I am trying to make this Government realize that it is a responsibility and that therefore they should have an effective voice in deciding the manner of taking over the administration."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The Government have their own responsibility. When we were asked to take over a certain State, we took it over and added it to the district which we thought was contiguous to the State as administrative convenience permitted. The whole question of how the future alignment of districts ought to take place will depend upon a fresh examination of the question."

Claims of Mr. V. Munayya Nayudu of Proddatur.

*50 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have settled the claim of V. Munayya Nayudu of Proddatur who supplied ragi and cholam to the wholesale stores, Cuddapah, at the instance of the Government during 1943–44 by fixing the price of one imperial maund consisting of 43½ measures of ragi according to the G.O. No. 243, Public (War), dated 21st January 1942, Cuddapah Collector's notification, dated 4th June 1944, in Ref. H. 1-3328/44 at Rs. 7–3–9 while admittedly the cost of Nellore putti consisting of 1,120 seers is at Rs. 200;

(b) whether the settlement was forced upon the party;

(c) whether the party claimed additional amount; and

(d) if not, why not?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"(a) The claim has been settled by the Government at the rate of Rs. 7–3–9 per imperial maund of ragi which was the rate fixed by the Collector of Nellore and adopted by the Collector of Cuddapah.

"(b) No. The party claimed something more than was due but was unable to convince the Collector of Cuddapah, the Board or the Government that there was any mistake in calculation, but kept on saying that the Government had to pay him something more. He refused to take the sum offered to him. He was therefore told that he should take the amount offered in full and final settlement of his claim. He has done so.

"(c) Yes. His latest representation is under scrutiny of the Government.

"(d) Does not arise."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have satisfied themselves that $1\frac{1}{2}$ Nellore measures are equal to one Madras measure? " 2-45 p.m.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know the details, Sir, but I am sure the Government have taken into consideration the rates at which these were brought and the rates prevailing at the time."

Leave under the Factories Act.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member Mr. Sarma who put this question is not present. If he should come before the question hour is over, he will be permitted to put supplementary questions."

* 51 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the leave under the Factories Act due in 1946 and 1947 has not yet been granted to some workers of the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras;

(*b*) whether the concerned trade union has made any representations to the department and the Labour Commissioner about the matter and what action has been taken by them;

(*c*) whether the concerned union has given notice of strike to get the statutory obligation enforced;

(*d*) what action has been taken by the department and the Government in the matter; and

(*e*) whether the Government intend to enforce it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Chief Engineer has been asked to submit a report on a complaint that certain workers employed by contractors in the Public Works Department Workshop have not been given the leave due to them under the Act. His report is awaited.

"(*b*) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

"(*c*) Yes. The Public Works Department Workshop Workers Union gave notice in December 1947 stating that if the contract system in the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras, was not abolished admitting the concerned workers retrospectively from July 1946 to all the privileges of permanent departmental workers or alternatively if the privileges such as house rent, leave, holidays with wages, etc., given to the departmental workers were not extended to contract labour before the expiry of fifteen days from the date of reopening of the workshops after the Christmas holidays, the Union would call out the workers under contractors to strike work without further notice. It was suggested to the President of the Union that he should advise the workers not to precipitate matters as the question was under consideration. The Union has since decided to extend the notice of strike.